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## HKAA Meeting Today

Members of the former Hongkong Automobile Association are reminded that a meeting will be held in the Board Room, South China Morning Post, at 5.30 today, to consider the question of reorganising the Association which has been inoperative since the end of 1941.

## BRITAIN OPPOSES UN PROPOSAL

### Jewish Immigration

Lake Success, Jan. 21.—Britain on Wednesday night rejected the recommendation of the United Nations Assembly for opening a major port in Palestine by February 1 to permit the beginning of large scale Jewish immigration.

Britain's refusal to comply with this key provision of the Palestine partition plan was placed before a secret meeting of the UN Palestine Partition Commission by Sir Alexander Cadogan.

The British declaration thus made it clear that the Commission would be unable to implement the first step in the partitioning of the Holy Land and would be compelled to report its failure to the Security Council.

Sir Alexander Cadogan, replying to four specific questions submitted by the Commission, also declared Britain had no intention of increasing the present immigration quota of 1,500 a month between now and termination of the British mandate now scheduled for May 15 or earlier.

Cadogan's answer gave great importance because it involved the first deadline in the partition plan and thus provided the first test of the Commission's ability to implement it.

After hearing Sir Alexander Cadogan, the Commission was to begin discussion on the nature of its first report to the Security Council which probably will be submitted late next week.

This report will include a summary of the Commission's difficulties to date and will undoubtedly call the Council's attention to Britain's position on immigration—as well as other phases of the partition plan.—Associated Press.

### Hearst Very Ill

San Francisco, Jan. 21.—Mr. William Randolph Hearst, the noted American publisher, was reported here today to be seriously ill.—Reuter.

## EDITORIAL

### Freedom Of The Press

To millions living in democratic countries who have long enjoyed liberties of thought, speech and writing, it may come as some surprise that the United Nations have found it desirable to establish a special commission to define the rights and obligations of these privileges. But the fact that recommendations of this commission will be published in the official organs of the United Nations which always demands the elimination of individual thought and its subjection to conditioned forms of expression, in Japan, until the end of the war, freedom of speech and writing was considered dangerous because it produced "dangerous thoughts" in Germany the same privileges were denied the people on the grounds that they were superfluous and unnecessary. To some degree this attitude still persists in countries such as Spain, Russia and her satellites, and is now recognized as being one of the chief causes for international misunderstanding and illwill. A people fed on one-way propaganda and "angled" versions of events which happen both inside and outside a country must be expected to develop distorted ideas of how the rest of the world is behaving and thinking. On the question of freedom of the press, the British delegate serving on the UN commission is particularly qualified to express opinions, for in Britain across the pioneers who fought for a freedom which has jealously been guarded to this day. Even during the last war, when the whole

nation was mobilised under a system of state control, the British press preserved much of its freedom. Censorship was voluntary and made no attempt to interfere with editorial comment, with the result that the newspapers were able to deal with the progress of the war, whether in defeat or success, objectively and unhampered by tendentious and conflicting propaganda. The zealous manner in which the Press of Britain endeavours to protect its freedom is at present being illustrated by the siting of the Royal Commission inquiring into certain alleged practices of the great national newspapers. The demand for this inquiry, it should be noted, came first from working journalists, who felt that there was a danger of British journalism falling into disrepute if newspaper combines were permitted to dominate the metropolitan and suburban press. In Australia, where newspapermen are sensitive for the good name of their craft, the Journalists' Association and newspaper proprietors during the war agreed on a code of ethics designed to safeguard the prestige and liberty of the press. The code is opening to the benefit of those who produce the newspapers and the public which reads them. With the freedom of the press is bound up its integrity, and one cannot be claimed without guarantee of the other. This is a consideration which the United Nations Commission should not ignore when it frames its Bill of Rights for the freedom of thought, speech and writing.

## Secret Agreements Between Russia & Germany Disclosed

### SOVIET ASPIRATIONS IN 1941 LAY TOWARDS INDIAN OCEAN

Washington, Jan. 21.—Hitler and the Soviet Foreign Minister, M. Vyacheslav Molotov, agreed that Soviet territorial aspirations lay "south of the Soviet Union," in the direction of the Indian Ocean, it was revealed here tonight when the German Foreign Office records of German-Soviet relations between 1939 and the invasion of Russia in 1941 were published by the State Department.

The records cover conferences between Hitler and M. Molotov on the splitting of the world into Russian, German, Italian and Japanese spheres of influence, and discussion of the "division of the Persian Gulf."

Subsequently, though no agreement was ever signed, M. Molotov demanded that the area south of Baku and Baku in the general direction of the Persian Gulf be recognised additionally as a centre of Soviet aspirations.

The State Department gave no explanation for its publication of these documents.

The British Foreign Office and the State Department had agreed to publish together, in chronological historic form, all documents captured from German archives.

In today's release, made without British co-operation, observers here saw a considerable diplomatic significance in the timing, because it had been kept secret as likely to offend Russia.

The text of various secret treaties to the treaties between Germany and Soviet Russia are plain. These include the secret additional protocol to the non-aggression pact of August, 1939, whereby the northern boundary of Lithuania was established as the boundary between the German and Soviet spheres of influence.

### HITLER'S INTERVIEWS

It provided that the question whether Poland was to be independent was to be determined later by friendly agreement, and Germany declared her political disinterestedness in South-Eastern Europe. The documents include memoranda on Hitler's interviews with representatives of all the Axis powers, including Japan, in so far as these affected Soviet-German relations.

A memorandum of an interview between Hitler and the Japanese Foreign Minister, Matsukata, on March 27, 1941, said: "The Führer then spoke of his conviction that England had already lost the war."

"It was only a matter of having the intelligence to admit it."

A memorandum by the State Secretary in the German Foreign Office, Baron Von Weizsäcker, warned in April, 1941, that a war with Soviet Russia would give Britain new moral strength, and that a German advance even to Moscow and beyond would not bring peace, but, instead, would prolong the war and sacrifice the economic advantages Germany was then deriving from Soviet Russia.

Most of the material contained in the documents has been published before in one form or another, some in despatches from Germany by Allied correspondents after the collapse.

Much of it was contained in the book "Speaking Frankly" by the former Secretary of State, Mr. James Byrne.

### SECRET PROTOCOL

There was another secret protocol to the treaty of friendship of 1939 whereby Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to suppress Polish agitation against either power in their respective halves of Poland. Baron Von Weizsäcker, in his memorandum, stated: "I can summarise in one sentence my views on a German-Russian conflict: If every Russian city reduced to ashes were as valuable to us as a sunken British warship, I should advocate the German-Russian war for this summer, but I believe we would be victors over Russia only in a military sense and would lose in an economic sense."

German attempts to gain Russian participation in the Tripartite Pact came to a head with an invitation which was accepted by M. Molotov to visit Berlin in November, 1940.

Hitler told the Soviet Foreign Minister of the imminent "defeat of Britain" and sought the creation of a coalition of Germany, Russia, Italy and Japan, "all of whom want to be satisfied out of the bankrupt British estate."

### RUSSIA'S ASPIRATIONS

In the secret protocols apart from Europe, Germany only wished to regain her former territories in Central Africa.

Italy's aspirations centred in North and North-Eastern Africa, Japan in East Asia, and Russia's in the direction of the Indian Ocean.

It was further agreed to try to wean Turkey away from her links with the Allies and reach an agreement with her, replacing the Montreux Convention by another giving Russia unrestricted passage through the Dardanelles.

M. Molotov signified his agreement to this provided German troops were withdrawn immediately from Finland and Germany would sign a treaty of mutual assistance with Bulgaria, and also provided that Japan would renounce her claims to coal and oil concessions in Northern Sakhalin.

This agreement was never signed, and within less than a month, Hitler issued from his headquarters a directive to staff chiefs on "Operation Barbarossa" which began: "The German armed forces must be prepared to crush Soviet Russia in a quick campaign, even before the conclusion of the war against England."

The following weeks brought frequent Soviet expressions of concern over German troop movements in Bulgaria and Rumania.—Reuter.

## DEMONSTRATIONS BY BAGHDAD STUDENTS

Baghdad, Jan. 21.—Students demonstrating against the revised British-Iraqi treaty of alliance entrenched themselves in a Baghdad school building.

Steel helmeted and heavily armed police besieged them. Three police were reported killed. This would bring the rioting death toll to 11 since Monday. 10 other persons were reported hurt, bringing the injured to 150.

All schools were ordered closed for a week after an estimated 6,000 students began roaming Baghdad streets this morning. Similar disorders were reported in other Iraq cities.—Associated Press.

## CONSOLIDATION OF WESTERN EUROPE

### Defensive Alliance May Be Extended

London, Jan. 21.—A vital move in the regional consolidation of Western Europe was considered in diplomatic quarters in London tonight to have been taken by an Anglo-French decision to approach the Benelux Governments with an offer to widen the 50-year Anglo-French defensive alliance concluded at Dunkirk on March 4, 1947.

Though no official confirmation was available in London tonight of the report that formal proposals to extend the Franco-British Pact have been lodged at the capitals of Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Belgium, usually reliable quarters in London believe them to be correct.

The unwillingness of officials here to comment on the news is considered to be solely due to a determination not to anticipate the statements which the British and French Foreign Ministers are to make tomorrow to their respective Parliaments.

A Reuter despatch from Paris stated that the reports were not denied in usually well-informed French circles tonight.

### GROUND PREPARED

It was, in fact, strongly rumoured in London that Mr. Bevin would make an unexpected announcement when he opens the two-day foreign affairs debate in the House of Commons tomorrow.

There is every reason to believe that the ground has already been carefully prepared by informal preparatory talks between the five governments concerned.

As long ago as last March, when Mr. Bevin spent a few hours in Belgium on his way to the Moscow session of the Foreign Ministers Conference after signing the Anglo-French Pact at Dunkirk, the possibility of a similar alliance with the Belgian Government was being discussed.

Since then, the conclusion of the customs union between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg has drawn these countries closer together so that an extension of the alliance, not to Belgium alone, but to all three states, appears a logical development.

The first reaction to the news of the offer in diplomatic quarters here was that it possessed both a formal and a tactical significance.

### REINFORCING SECURITY

Taken at its face value, the extended alliance in the Anglo-French plan if it meets with the approval of the Benelux group, will reinforce the security of the Western victims of German invasion by a long-continued defensive treaty.

By bringing the Low Countries into the Pact, the traditional and long neglected security requirements of both France and the smaller states to her northwest would be met. But the proposal, whether intentionally or not, has another significance. The successful extension of the Anglo-French Pact would bring a "Western bloc", based on military treaty commitments, so often condemned in advance by Soviet propaganda, into being.

In fact, the conclusion of a defensive treaty system in the West, formally directed against a revival of German aggression, comes after the still-developing network of alliances in Eastern Europe with the same avowed aim that has been developed from Moscow and Belgrade.

It remains true that a link between the Eastern and Western treaty systems is provided by the existence of the 1942 Anglo-Soviet Alliance and the 1944 Franco-Soviet Alliance, though attempts to revise the former, which were undertaken in Moscow last spring, have, in the meantime, lapsed. It is assumed in reliable quarters here that news of the Anglo-French move had already been communicated to Washington.—Reuter.

## China Centre For Atomic Research

### Scientists' Request

Nanking, Jan. 21.—The establishment of an atomic research centre in China to permit the country to compete with the United States, Russia, France and other nations in the study of nuclear fission for peaceful benefits is the goal of a group of Chinese scientists.

Dr. Li Shu-hua, Director of the National Academy at Peiping, has requested the Ministry of Education to ask government for an initial appropriation of US\$400,000 to establish a research centre to build a cyclotron at Peiping Academy.

Dr. Li has been consulting various government officials on the project. He says that both men and materials are available in China for the project and with an adequate appropriation organized studies could begin almost immediately in atomic energy and nuclear fission.

He said Dr. Chiang An-chiang, former student of Madame Curie, had been asked to direct the project. Other Chinese scientists who worked at the Manhattan project would be asked to return to China. Among these are Dr. Jen Chiu-kung and Dr. Tseng Chao-lun, both of whom are on the staff of the University of California atomic laboratory.—United Press.

## Self-Supporting Policy For Japan Announced

Washington, Jan. 21.—The United States government pointed its Japanese occupation policy toward making Japan self-supporting "at the earliest possible time" and disclosed to other allied powers that funds for that purpose will shortly be asked of Congress.

The burden of maintaining Japan's civilian economy at a cost of around US\$350,000,000 a year, a policy statement declared, must be removed from the American taxpayers, and Japan must be enabled "to make its proper contribution to the economic rehabilitation of the world," the United States informed the Far Eastern Commission.

The pronouncement appeared generally to bring American policy toward Japan into line with United States aims for Western Germany where also the announced objectives are to make the people self-supporting and able to contribute to the economic recovery of other nations.

Major General Frank McCoy, American member of the Far Eastern Commission, presented the policy statement at today's Commission meeting to provide basic understanding on the part of the other powers of the army's request to Congress for funds to finance restoration of "peaceful industries" in Japan.

Thus far United States policy has been to spend minimum funds in Japan to prevent "disaster and unrest." The objective which McCoy described, however, also would

## Last Days Of 5 Great Warships

### SCRAPHEAP DECISION BY ADMIRALTY ANNOUNCED

### Cruisers Also To Go

London, Jan. 21.—Lord Hall, the First Lord of the Admiralty, today told Parliament that four of Britain's battleships will be scrapped during the next 12 months.

The ships, the scrapping of which will mean the disappearance of some world-famous names from the Royal Navy, are the Queen Elizabeth, 32,700 tons, the Valiant, 31,000 tons, Nelson, 33,300 tons, and Rodney, 33,900 tons.

Disclosing the decisions at a specially convened gathering of naval correspondents earlier, Lord Hall had opened with the words "The First Sea Lord and I feel like padres taking a funeral service for a number of very old friends."

Lord Hall also announced that the 30,750-ton battle cruiser, Renown, would be scrapped, and that several cruisers—believed to number seven—will also be scrapped.

What the future strength of the Royal Navy will be after the scrapping is not clear, but Lord Hall told the correspondents: "We have, of course, five modern battleships which we shall retain."

They are: Duke of York, Howe, King George V, Anson—all with standard displacement of 35,000 tons—and Vanguard, 42,500 tons.

### OUT OF DATE

Lord Hall explained that the battleships to be scrapped had become more and more out of date in their armaments and fighting qualities and more and more expensive to keep in reserve in a proper state of repair.

"We have been forced to conclude that even if we could afford the manpower and money to keep them in reserve, they would be of very little value in the future," he declared.

Lord Hall, however, shook his head when asked by correspondents whether the decision was made because it was felt that battleships might be obsolete in atomic warfare. "We still retain battleships and still think they are of great fighting value," he said.

The full official story of the scrappings was disclosed simultaneously in both Houses of Parliament this afternoon.

### COMMONS STATEMENT

A Government statement said: "The useful life of a battleship is normally reckoned to be approximately 20 years. This period is calculated on the basis of normal usage and is greatly reduced when the vessels are subjected to arduous war service."

"As a result of review, the Admiralty has come to the conclusion that, of the capital ships remaining in the Royal Navy, Queen

Elizabeth, Valiant, Renown, Nelson and Rodney are likely to be of the least value as fighting ships.

"The possibility of maintaining the battleships in reserve was considered, but they would be costly to maintain in this state, both in money and manpower."

"If they were to be of any value in a future emergency, they would need extensive refits and modernisation, which, in view of the heavy cost and labour involved, could not be justified during the next few years."

"Even if the work was done, the vessels would fall considerably short of the standard and capabilities of modern construction."

"The particular their speed could not be increased to such an extent as to render them capable of taking their place in a modern fleet."

Explaining the decision to dispose of a number of cruisers and smaller ships which were obsolescent or of little fighting value, the statement added: "This action does not represent any new departure but is a continuation of the process which has been going on since the hostilities ceased, under which redundant and outdated warships have been scrapped, or sold if a market could be found."

"The Admiralty is satisfied that these reductions do not reduce the effective strength of the Royal Navy below that required to meet any emergency which is likely to arise in the foreseeable future."

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICES

Two of the four battleships to be scrapped saw service in two world wars.

The Queen Elizabeth was commissioned in December, 1914, and was the flagship of the Eastern Mediterranean squadron in the 1914-1918 World War, taking part in the Dardanelles campaign.

The surrender of the German fleet was negotiated on board the vessel in November, 1918, when she was the flagship of Admiral Beatty, Commander in Chief of the Grand Fleet.

During the last World War, she was seriously damaged by human torpedoes in Alexandria Harbour in 1941, but after repairs she served against the Japanese in the Far East.

The Valiant was the first battleship to be launched in the 1914 War and went undamaged through the battle of Jutland. During the last war, she served in the Mediterranean, where, like the Queen Elizabeth, she was damaged by a human torpedo attack at Alexandria. After repair, she had a notable share in the campaign against Italy, both at sea and by bombarding Italian positions ashore.

The Nelson was commissioned in 1927 and the Rodney was completed a few months later in the same year.

General Eisenhower and Marshal Badoglio signed the Italian Armistice on board the Nelson at Malta in September, 1943. Two years later, at the same table on board, the surrender of the Japanese in the Penang area was signed.

### FOUGHT THE BISMARCK

Most of the Nelson's war service was in the Mediterranean, but she also took part in the bombardment preceding the Normandy landings and later fought in the Far East.

The Rodney steamed 150,000 miles on war service. She was in the action against the 40,000-ton German battleship Bismarck, achieving during the chase speeds which had been thought impossible and afterwards scoring the first hit on the German vessel. She took part in the North Africa landing operations and was bombed by German aircraft during the Normandy campaign.

(Continued on Page 4)



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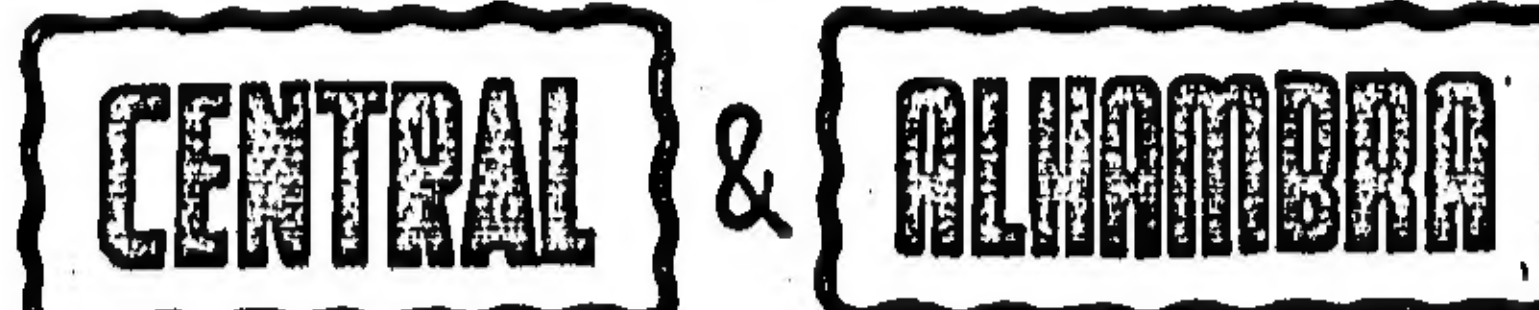
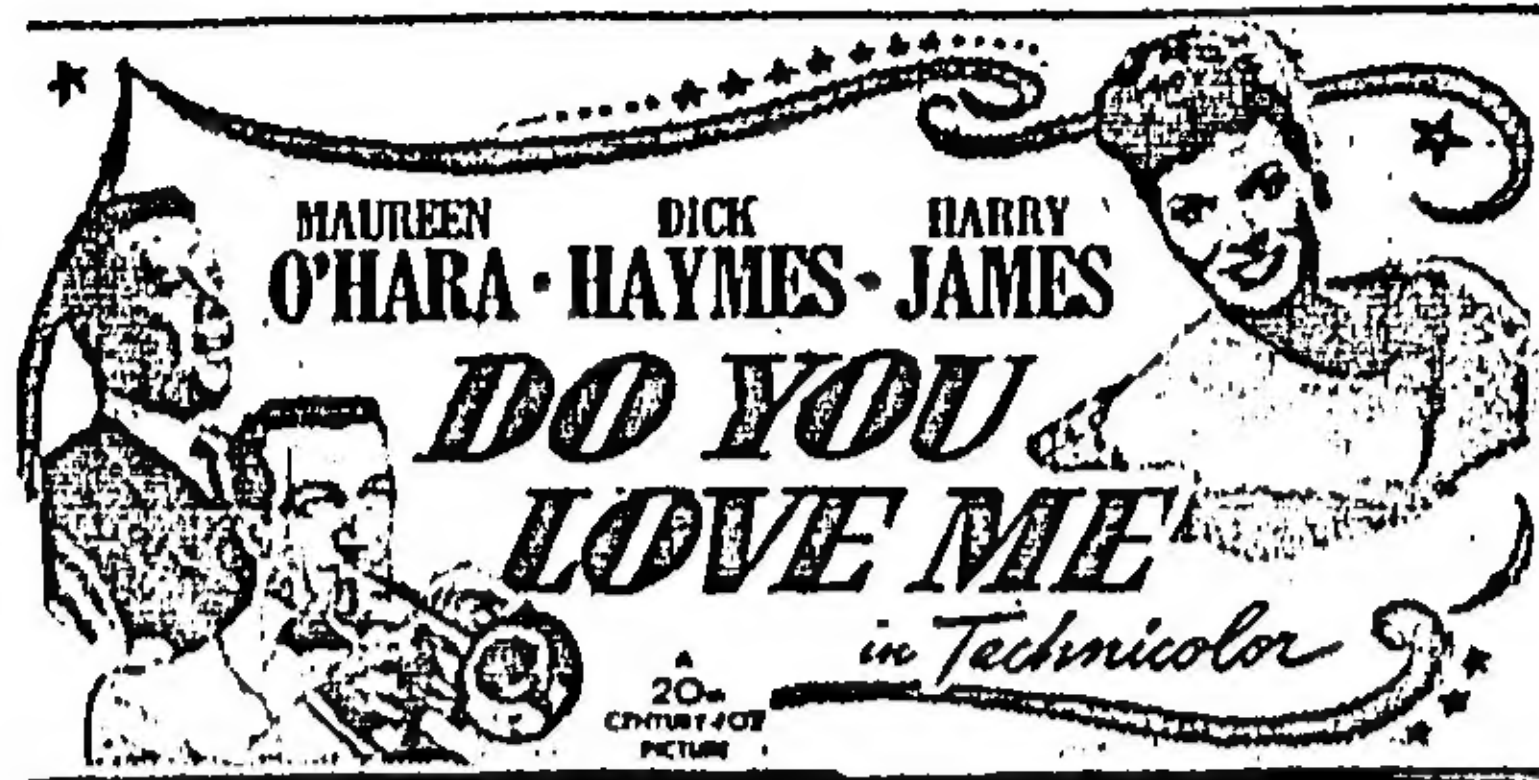
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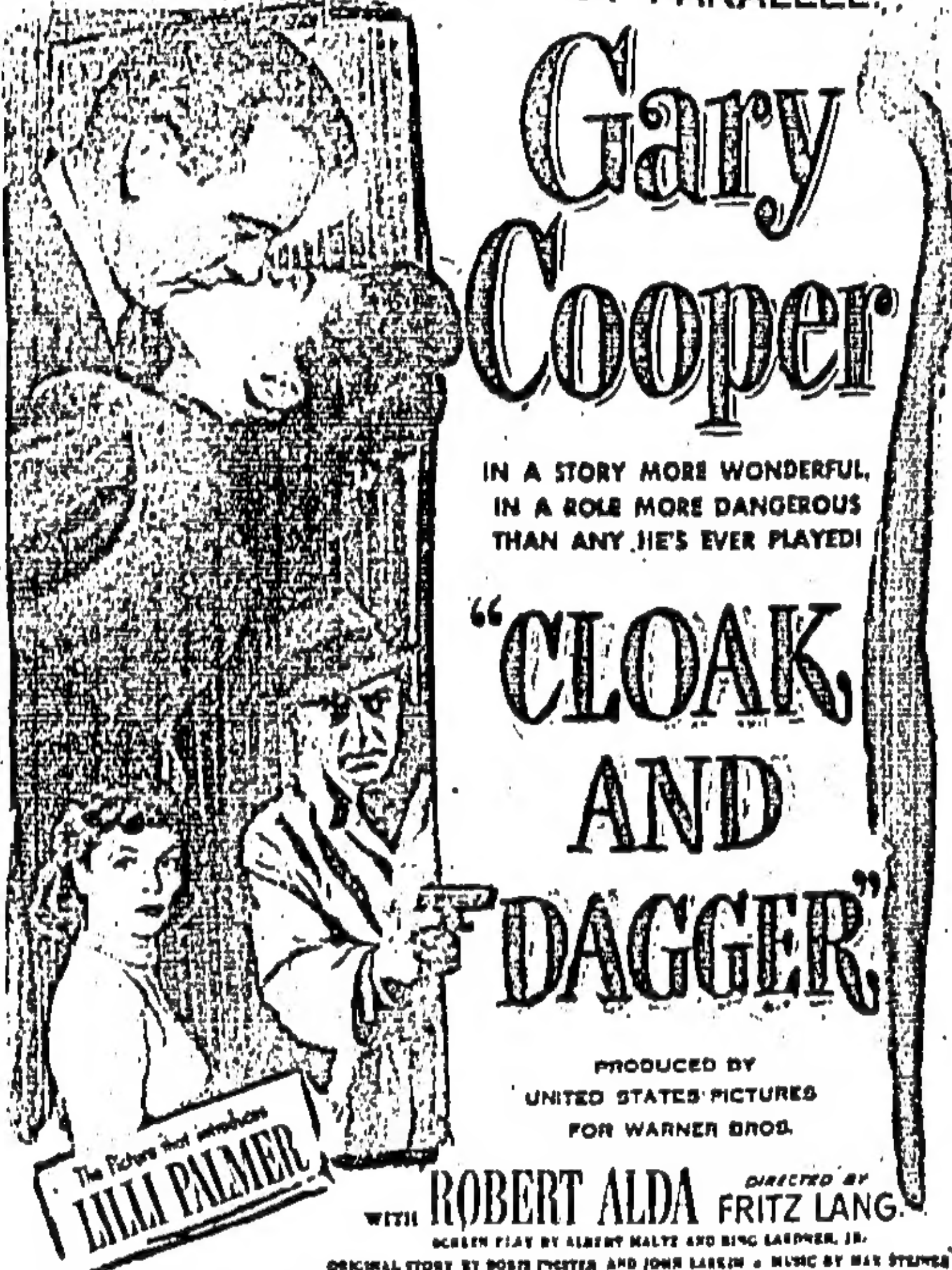
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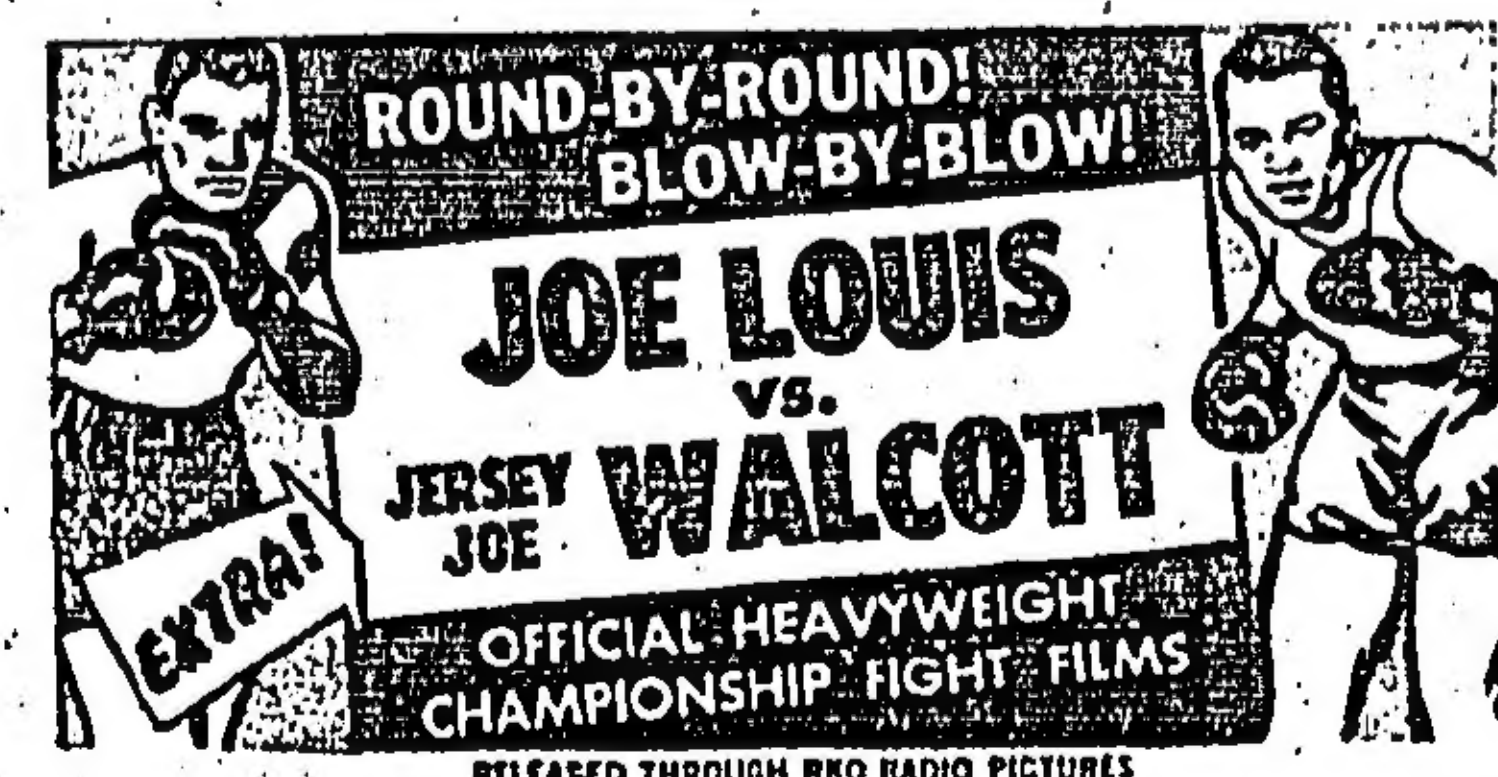
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PAUL HOLT here presents a highly personal  
estimate of 1947. His year's winner —It's the  
SUN!

LONDON, JAN. 9.

PROFILE of 1947: It was the sun that made the year. 1947 began with tempests and blizzards and the still shroud of snow. For four months the sky did not clear once. And the people, unprepared, resentful of this burden of the elements, grew sour and sullen and listless. It was lucky indeed they found a chatterbox like Shinwell on whom to fasten their hate, or there might have been some real trouble.

Into this atmosphere of pinched and petty gloom there arrived an American reporter, Mr Nat Finney, of the magazine Look.

He saw listlessness. Above the grey silence he heard only occasional grizzling, which sounds like fingernails scrabbling on sheets. He smelt a sickroom despair here, and cabled back to his paper that Britain already had "The Mark of Death."

That shook us.

The old invalid began to shout for nurse in a voice no longer querulous but getting angry.

Nurse was Sir Stafford Cripps. The more he bled us and purged us and stuck leeches on us and dosed us and opened the windows wide and kicked us out of bed, the more we loved that man. He was the beginning of our salvation. And then the sun came out. That saved us. From April to December it shone and shone and shone as never before. And the people steadied, grew calmer, did some healthy self-appraisal, and began, to go back to work.

It was the sun that had done the trick. Elsewhere a vast number of people in the East and an equally vast number of people in the West finally decided to abandon all pretences of liking each other. Thereby peace seemed slightly better assured, since people who are not speaking to each other rarely come to blows.

## West and East

AMERICA confidently pursued a world policy of inflation, which, she felt sure, would in the end be a good thing, finding a new world value for goods she was already beginning to over-produce.

Communism, following some re-buffs, took one mortal hurt. Faced with the opening of civil revolutions, Communist-organised, the peoples of Italy and France showed an open tendency to laugh and went about their business.

Man of the Year was Mr Shinwell, who withstood all ridicule, and was finally proved right in his coal policy, though he lost his job in the process.

## Nettled!

FACED with growing encroachments to their personal liberty, the people of Britain showed a steady indifference. But one thing riled them. Mr Herbert Morrison, in a speech at Bradford, said we had too much money. He said we had Idle Money, Hot Money, Black Money, and Loose Money.

The citizens, nettled by this tort, at once replied: "Who-me? You must mean two other fellows." On this subject there is a deep and growing disagreement between the Government economists and the people, who know that their wages and salaries are stretching today no more than two-thirds of the distance they did on January 1, 1947.

The economists say that it is the money that creates our present inflation. The people say it is the inflation which makes the pound go nowhere at all. Both are right. The only point of argument is—Where is the pound? In your pocket or the other fellow's?

Woman of the Year was Princess Elizabeth, who held world front pages daily with ease.

Sight of the Year was that devout Quaker Sir Stafford Cripps fighting for yet shorter skirts.

Animal of the Year was a man-eating rabbit bred by the Roscoe Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbour, Maine, U.S.A.

Lord Montgomery said: "What we need is leadership plus team-work" more often and in more places than anybody else.

India, becoming free, turned terrible, making more death than happened to the British Armed Forces throughout the war. The world, including Indians, looked on, scarcely moved.

## Future man—

PROFESSOR J. B. S. HALDANE, at Princeton, described the man of the future. He will have great muscular skill but little muscular strength, a larger head, fewer teeth. He will not be able to speak until he is five, and will still be learning at 40. He will live several centuries, and will be more rational and less a victim of his emotions. I don't know whether he sounds all that nice to know.

In the great change-over of power, privilege, jobs, and authority from the middle or reflective classes to the lower or productive classes, a thriving time was had by lawbreakers. This led the Home Secretary to withdraw official support from a move to suspend the death sentence, which made some people feel right down ashamed of our times.

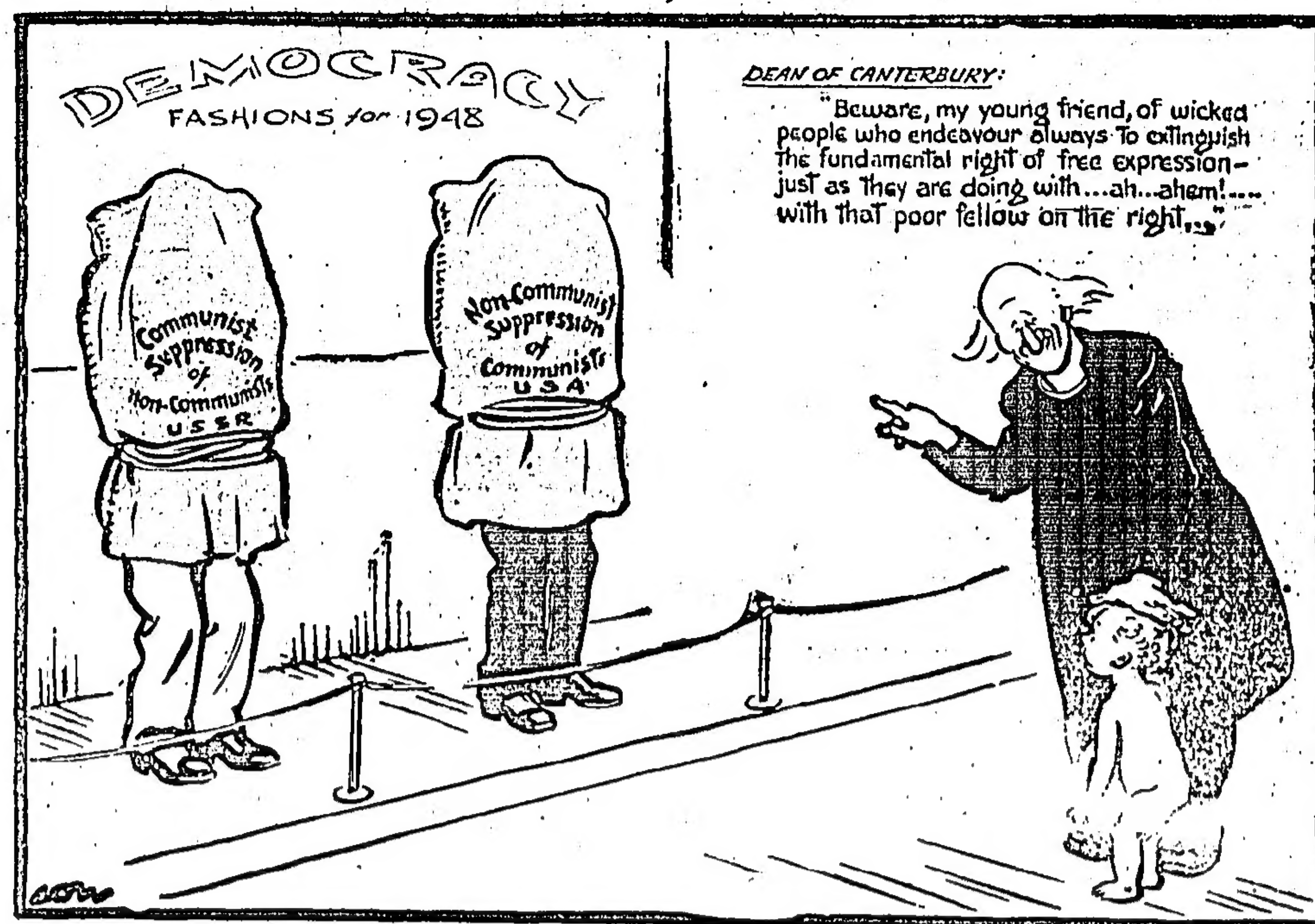
The Third Estate continued to skirmish with the Fourth Estate. Following several incidents in the House of Commons, in which journalists and journalists were involved, the suspicion grew in Fleet-street that politicians, smarting under criticism, are looking for war. It would be a pity, but Fleet-street would win. The people would see to it.

Art and artists showed few signs of a desire to stir from lethargy. H. E. Bates (fiction) and Osbert Sitwell (autobiography) were right out in front as writers. Carol Reed's "Odd Man Out" was easily the best film. Priestley's "The Linden Tree" the best play. There was no poet to note.

## —And a fish diet

SCIENCE stood still, aghast at what it had done. But Dr. Carlton Simon spoke up bravely to a meeting of police chiefs. Al Capone would have been law-abiding on a fish diet, he said. It was also discovered that if you toss a coin heads comes up more often, and that fat people are not really jolly.

But the main thing was that the sun shone as never before.



IDEOLOGIES ALTER CASES

(Copyright in All Countries)

DOCTORS DRAFT SECRET  
'BEAT-BEVAN' QUIZ

by JOHN DEANE POTTER

London, Jan. 9.

LAST night 370 doctors from all over Britain sat in secret session in Bloomsbury and decided on a three-question quiz to be posted to 56,000 doctors asking them for the last time: Do you want to be nationalised?

It was the doctors' final attempt to resist the Act to turn them into salaried civil servants. Yesterday they argued for six hours in the British Medical Association headquarters in Tavistock-square, W.C., about the Government proposals.

Only a third of British doctors are in favour of them; the B.M.A. thinks some may now change their minds.

The three questions which may make them join the opposition are secret, but this is the forecast from the B.M.A. lobbies last night:—

1. SHOULD DOCTORS be free to decide whether they will enter public service, and also be able to choose the area of their practice?
2. IS IT ESSENTIAL for the benefit of the patients that doctors should be allowed to buy and sell the goodwill of their practices?
3. SHOULD DOCTORS be paid a basic salary instead of a fee-per-head of the patients on their panel?

The quiz was accepted without opposition. What the 370

delegate doctors had in mind can be judged from these QUOTES IN THE CORRIDORS:

"We shall be turned into civil servants and a civil servant takes the same interest in his job as the man who is working for himself."

"Admittedly some Harley-street specialists make a lot of money now, but it is better for a few to make too much than for everyone to be treated by medio-critics."

"The scheme will turn doctors into veterinary surgeons. As State servants their concern will be to answer the question: 'Is this animal fit for work?'"

"In New Zealand, where this scheme has been tried, it is difficult to get a doctor after six, because the patient-doctor relationship has gone."

"The scheme will cost the public £152,000,000 a year, or about £4 per head—much more than the average person pays today in doctors' bills."

"Young men faced with being civil servants, with £300 a year basic salary and 15s. 2d. for each patient, will feel too settled. They will either not go in for medicine at all or they will stay where they are and not take the risk of becoming specialists."

"Many patients will register with their doctor and still pay him extra for their visits. This will lead to a black market in medicine."

## RESOLVED—

The doctors—who regard Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, as a man whose method of negotiation is to alternate blandishments with threats—closed last night's session with this resolution:

"The elected representatives of the medical profession... consider the National Health Service Act of 1946 in its present form so grossly at variance with the essential principles of our profession that it should be rejected absolutely by all practitioners."

BY THE WAY  
by Beachcomber

THERE was an empty feeling in my stomach when I received a note saying that the Snail-Watching Society had wound up its activities.

It is so much more pleasant to watch a snail than a jet plane, and so much more instructive. Hesiod called the snail Phereoklos the house-carrier, and a later writer has rather charmingly referred to snails as "creatures of retiring habits." I never stop repeating that there are, or were, two places where they understand the cooking of snails. One is the eating-house of Benoit in Compiègne; the other is a little hamlet lost among the Causses, near Millau. Its name is Masseblau.

## A garden statue

WERE I a wealthy man I would hire a sculptor—not one of the enlightened ones who hack a few bits off a lump of stone and call it "Twilight," but a genuine artist, and I would bid him make a statue of a snail. This I would place at the end of a grass walk between clipped yews. Beneath it would be written: Lente, lente currite, noctis cochleae.

And whenever I grew tired of watching the mad world rushing on to destruction (faster than sound) I would contemplate my snail.

## Foulcnough again

"MY daughter," said the lady, "is devoted to riding. She won't go anywhere without her horse."

"Enter them both for the Leger," said a thick voice. All eyes turned to Captain Foulcnough, who had been brought to the house by Vita Brevis, for once under his own name. Up to that moment he had behaved himself. But the strain was too much. "You must be joking," said the lady. "So I must," said Foulcnough, catching Vita's eye. "Well, enter the gal for the Leger and take the horse home." Whereupon the hostess intervened tactfully to say that the days were drawing in.

## Oh, I say, look here!

The stolen potatoes were found in the house of a Russian officer.

(News Item.)

AS Napoleon said: "Scratch a Russian and you find a Tater."

NANCY It Says Here



By Ernie Bushmiller









# 200,000 GERMANS OUT ON STRIKE IN RUHR

Berlin, Jan. 21.—Some 200,000 German workers in the Anglo-American zones walked out today in token strikes against food shortages as unrest spread in the industrial Ruhr and the British suppressed the Communist-inspired People's Congress.

## FEDERATION OF MALAYA CREATED

Kuala Lumpur, Jan. 22.—Only the Crown Colony of Singapore was exempted in the signing of agreements yesterday by Great Britain with the rulers of nine Malayan states, creating a Federation of Malaya, and returning internal self-government to the Malay peninsula.

The new Federation, which represents the latest application of Britain's liberal postwar colonial policy, will become a policy concern after Governor Sir Edward Gent issues an Order-in-Council, probably about February 1.

Thereafter, Britain waives jurisdiction in Malaya over everything except external affairs, defence and appeals to the Privy Council, the Empire's supreme judicial body.

Sir Edward will become High Commissioner. British Resident Commissioners in each state will have advisory powers only.

The agreements were signed at a colourful ceremony at King's House in this capital, by Sir Edward for Britain and by the Sultans of Kedah, Kelantan, Pahang, Selangor, Perak and Trengganu, the Rajah of Perlis and His Highness Yang Di Pertuan Besar and other ruling chiefs of Negri Sembilan.

### Bitter Opposition

A special plane later flew to Johore for the signature of the Sultan of Johore. Illness prevented him from attending the ceremony here. His state also is a member of the new Federation.

Sir Edward, as the representative of the Crown, placed the former Straits Settlements of Malacca and Penang and the Province of Wellesley within the Federation.

The new Federation ends the Malayan Union, created in 1946. Under it, Malayan rulers were stripped of virtually all their powers. Bitter opposition by the populace brought the new scheme into being. A federal Legislative Assembly of 75 members was established as the chief representative body of the new Federation. Each state also has a Legislature.

### Chinese Objection

The Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce of Malaya have announced they are boycotting the Legislatures until provisions of a new Constitution limiting citizenship and giving Malaya legislative majorities are rescinded.

The treaties signed soon after the war by Sir Harold Macmillan are abrogated. The Malayan rulers had protested that they were forced to become parties to the treaties against their will. — Associated Press.

## Last Days Of 5 Great Warships

(Continued from Page 1)

The cruiser Renown, completed in 1910, took the Duke of Windsor, then Prince of Wales, on a world tour in 1920-1922.

During the last war, she served in Norwegian, Mediterranean and Far Eastern waters. She twice carried Winston Churchill on his journeys to Allied conferences—bringing him to England after talks in Canada and the United States and taking him as far as Alexandria on his way to the "Big Three" talks at Tehran.

Last October, it was announced that the active strength of the Home Fleet would be reduced to one cruiser and four destroyers because of manpower shortages and increased replacement rate.

This meant that temporarily Britain had only a token first-line defence in Home waters and that the Home Fleet was reduced to the proportions of a squadron for the first time in its history.

It was estimated then that since the end of the war, the Royal Navy had been reduced by over 1,000 warships. About 450, including one battleship, had been given, sold, or lent to other navies, 183 had been scheduled for scrapping, and about 500 had been put to reserve.

One other battleship, the 31,000-ton Warspite, now lies wrecked off the Cornish coast, where she ran aground last year on the way to a breaking-up yard. — Reuter.

## Gandhi Pleads For Compassion

New Delhi, Jan. 21.—Mahatma Gandhi referred today to the bomb incident near his prayer meeting last night and asked his audience "to have compassion for that young man who told the police he had come to kill me because he thought that I was an evil person."

There were more armed police guards about than usual when Mr. Gandhi was carried in an armchair to the small wooden platform from which he addressed the crowd through a microphone. — Reuter.

Upwards of 100,000 workers struck in Cologne, the spearhead of a movement reaching into all parts of the Ruhr.

In the American zone, 30,000 metal workers struck for half a day in Nuremberg.

The strikes broke out while General Lucius Clay, American Military Governor in Germany, was flying to Washington for consultations. Gen Clay was fresh from the Allied Control Council meeting at which Russia demanded that the British and Americans break up their plans for establishing joint administration of their occupation zones.

The new strikes re-emphasised the traditional position of the Ruhr as the focal point for labour trouble in Germany.

Wholly unconcerned reports circulated that trouble is brewing on a scale that might require military force to handle.

A British Military Government decree banned the People's Congress from the Ruhr. Congress leaders claimed they represented the "voice of the German people."

The British announcement brought it to a head persistent suspicions that strong measures would be taken to counter any attempts at large-scale agitation in the Ruhr. British intelligence officers are reported to possess a "wanted" list of Ruhr troublemakers. — United Press.

### 24-Hour Standstill

Cologne, Jan. 21.—Eighty thousand workers here stayed at home today, bringing the life of the city to a standstill for 24 hours in protest strike against the low food rations.

In Nuremberg, 100,000 workers also stopped work on orders of their trade unions. Forty thousand marched in a procession, carrying banners demanding the resignation of the Bavarian Government and an improvement in the food situation.

All the Cologne strikers are expected to return to work tomorrow, including the tramway workers who have been out for three days.

Dr. Schlang-Schöenberger, director of the Food and Agriculture Department of Bonn, was quoted by the German news service in the American zone as saying: "I do not know how we are going to survive the next three months."

He told the Economic Council at Frankfurt that calm in the Ruhr region might maintain world peace. He asked the occupying powers to let the Germans buy high quality foodstuffs in neighbouring countries.

The German population would be ready to pay for these by hard work, he added.

In Munich, the Bavarian Diet unanimously passed a motion asking the Bavarian Government to approach the United States Military Government with a request to free German dollar credits to buy fats abroad.

### Food Distributed

High quality foodstuffs, including meat, fish, herrings and flour, valued at \$50,000, have been placed at the disposal of the Ruhr population through Protestant Churches abroad, the German news service in the American zone reported tonight, and another similar quantity will be distributed shortly.

The British Military Government held that enough foodstuffs, particularly bread grains, have been imported to ensure a regular ration of 1,500 calories a day throughout the year, if indigenous resources are fully utilised, a Reuter despatch from Düsseldorf stated.

The Anglo-American authorities in Germany have asked the bi-zonal Economic Council at Frankfurt to pass a law instructing the heads of the 23,000,000 families in the combined zone to register all the food they possess.

The legislation would be designed to strike at hoarders and black market dealers hiding critically needed foodstuffs.

Under the scheme, all newspapers in the joint zone would suspend publication for several days to make available paper for the proposed food questionnaires. — Reuter.

### Marshall's Views

Washington, Jan. 21.—He was in full agreement with Mr. Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, as to the seriousness of the German food situation, Gen. George Marshall, Secretary of State, said today.

Commenting on Mr. Bevin's personal message to him on the subject of food for Germany, Gen. Marshall, at his press conference, said he was particularly interested in Mr. Bevin's ideas about supplies of fish for Germany from the Scandinavian countries.

He added that a reply to the British Foreign Secretary was under preparation. — Reuter.

### Buenos Aires Strike

Buenos Aires, Jan. 21.—A 48-hour strike by Buenos Aires dock workers, which began on Monday, to protest against an alteration ordered by the Labour Secretariat in the methods of handling coal cargoes, ended today. — Reuter.

Such an attack would be a violation of the Dutch-Indonesian agreement ending hostilities. The radio said the attack occurred on Monday. — Associated Press.

## Alleged Attack By Dutch Troops

Batavia, Jan. 21.—The Indonesian Republic Radio at Jogjakarta announced that 200 Dutch soldiers attacked the Malang area east of Central Java. It said the troops were supported by planes and mortars.

Such an attack would be a violation of the Dutch-Indonesian agreement ending hostilities. The radio said the attack occurred on Monday. — Associated Press.

## Bomb On Doorstep

London, Jan. 21.—The Arab Office in London announced that a bomb had been found on its doorstep tonight.

The bomb was in the form of a booby trap timed to explode when the door was opened. The police, who removed the bomb, placed a guard outside the office.

When the bomb was discovered, all the staff had left except the Director General. Mr. Alami. — Reuter.

## THREE-POWER TRIESTE H.Q. REJECTED

Lake Success, Jan. 21.—The United States, like the British Government, has rejected the Yugoslav suggestion that a joint Anglo-American-Yugoslav headquarters be established in Trieste.

The United States today notified this decision to the President of the United Nations Security Council.

The United States also considered that Yugoslavia had no right to interfere in the internal affairs of the Anglo-American zone of Trieste.

The American Government fully supported the action of Major-General Terence Riezy, commander of the Anglo-American zone, in expelling M. Rudolph Kurelic, deputy chief of the Yugoslav Economic Liaison Mission, from the Anglo-American zone.

M. Kurelic had made public, the reply stated, criticisms of the Allied Military Government, although it had insisted that members of Yugoslav missions and delegations in the zone should abstain from propaganda activities and any form of press publicity.

The United States thought the suggestion of a joint headquarters was impracticable. In its reply it suggested that the necessary coordination of common economic problems of an Anglo-American and Yugoslav zone could be arranged satisfactorily through a full utilization of the existing liaison facilities.

The United States reply concerning the expulsion of M. Kurelic was delivered by the American Embassy in Belgrade to the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry on January 15.

The second United States reply was made on January 16 to the Yugoslav Ambassador in Washington. The Ambassador had protested against a meeting in Trieste last October of the Partito Repubblicano Italiano Dazione Della Venezia Giulia. — Reuter.

## HE REFUSED TO WORSHIP HIROHITO

Tokyo, Jan. 21.—In an unprecedented action, Jiichiro Matsumoto, left wing leader of the Socialist Democratic Party and Vice-President of the Upper House of Diet, refused today to be received in audience by Emperor Hirohito following the opening ceremony of the second national Diet.

"Why must a human being worship another human being?" Matsumoto told the press after refusing the audience.

It has been arranged for the Speaker and Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives and President and Vice-President of the House of Councilors to proceed to Hirohito's presence and take a reverent bow.

All except Matsumoto were received in audience.

Matsumoto said he objected to the word "haitsu," meaning "worshipful audience," in referring to the Imperial audience.

He said: "Since the Diet invited the Emperor to the ceremony, it stands to reason that the President and Vice-President and the Speaker and Vice-Speaker of the Upper and Lower Houses should greet him. It is absurd, however, that the four should have to be individually received in an Imperial audience to worship him." — United Press.

## Useful Score By West Indies

Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan. 21.—The West Indies had scored 244 for three wickets by the close of play today in their first innings against England in the first cricket Test which began here today. — Reuter.

## NEW COMET SEEN

Prague, Jan. 21.—The State Observatory of Czechoslovakia has reported observing a new comet during the night of January 18.

The observatory described the comet as an object of the 10th stellar magnitude, with increasing brightness in the centre and a short tail moving north eastwards. — Reuter.

## Bomb On Doorstep

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The bomb was in the form of a booby trap timed to explode when the door was opened. The police, who removed the bomb, placed a guard outside the office.

When the bomb was discovered, all the staff had left except the Director General. Mr. Alami. — Reuter.

## In Appreciation

Sir—I, and many of my comrades in the RAF desire to express our sorrow at the passing of Major F. S. Moller, of Matre, Seychelles. In 1942, when the tide of battle was against us and we commenced operations for Madagascar, Seychelles held a predominant French civil population. Major Moller personally supervised essential aid to the Air Force and rendered us all the assistance possible.

C. WHITE,  
Warrant Officer,  
R.A.F.



"You take France, England and Poland. I'll take care of the rest of the world!"

## POSSIBILITY OF U.S. LOANS FOR EUROPE

Washington, Jan. 21.—Mr. John Snyder, United States Secretary of the Treasury, today urged the European countries in the Marshall Plan to take "prompt and vigorous" measures for monetary stabilisation.

Testifying before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, he forecast that when such adequate steps were accomplished, the United States would extend stabilisation loans in addition to the aid she intends to give for the purchase of goods under the European recovery programme.

Mr. Snyder outlined the steps which he considered necessary by saying: "In most countries, modifications in tax structures and control of expenditures will be needed."

He added that bilateral agreements which the United States would sign with each of the 16 nations would outline the financial and monetary measures which European countries would undertake in order to stabilise currencies and maintain proper rates of exchange.

## PHOSPHATE MINES IN RIO DE ORO

Madrid, Jan. 21.—Well-informed sources said today that three Spanish cabinet ministers at present on an inspection tour of Spanish possessions in northwest Africa had reported to Madrid confirmation of the recent discovery of vast phosphate mines in the Rio de Oro colony.

It is understood the mines are situated in the northwest corner of the colony beyond the town of Azil.

The ministers are Juan Antonio Suarez (Industry), Carlos Rein (Agriculture) and Gen. Edoardo Gonzalez Gallarza (Air).

The discovery of the greatest importance to Spanish economy, would signify complete independence from import of phosphates, previously had come from French Morocco when the Pyrenees frontier was open and at present come from Egypt.

Phosphates is indispensable to Spanish agriculture. Mixed with Chilean nitrates is used as a fertiliser.

It is estimated the discovery will furnish about 1,000,000 tons annually while Spanish requirements are about 600,000 tons, which means leaving some 400,000 tons for export.

The sources said the ministers also reported favourably on the timber possibilities of Spanish Guinea, recommending to rush manufacture of cellulose which economically is feasible to ship to Spain, relieving the acute paper and newsprint shortage. — United Press.

## Letters To The Editor

### Philatelic Exhibition

Sir—There are doubtless in this colony many people who are interested in stamp collecting for fun and profit judging by the many philatelists here. To these people, it may not be known that there is a Society in Hongkong named "The China Philatelic Association. This Association was founded some two years ago and the membership is steadily increasing.

To promote greater interest and pleasure amongst stamp collectors, it has been decided to hold a Philatelic Exhibition on January 24 and 25, at the St. Francis Hotel, to which the public is cordially invited, and constructive criticisms and suggestions will be gratefully received.

HENRY HO,  
Hon. Secretary,  
The China Philatelic Association.

### Check Your Knowledge

Answers  
1. In Sicily. 2. In Canada. 3. In Burma. 4. China. 5. Five. 6. Pitches.

## Differences Develop Again In Indonesia

Batavia, Jan. 21.—Only two days after the Dutch and Indonesian agreement to end their two years and five months dispute, differences were developing today over the interpretation of the six-point plan put forward on Monday by the United Nations Security Council's "Good Offices" Committee.

## Men Smuggled In Diplomats' Luggage

Moscow, Jan. 21.—Russia and Argentina have settled amicably the incident in which two Argentine diplomats tried to smuggle two men out of the Soviet Union in luggage trunks, it was understood authoritatively here today.

Two members of the Argentine Embassy in Moscow, Senior Pedro Conde, the Labour Attaché, and Senior Clifford Bazzan—are being sent back to the Argentine.

While on a flight from Moscow, Senior Conde took along his luggage a large steamer trunk in which a man was concealed.

The man knocked on the trunk and asked to be let out and the aircraft was then landed at Lvov, Poland, where Customs officials questioned Senior Conde.

Originally Senior Bazzan was at Moscow Airport with Senior Conde, and among his luggage was another steamer trunk in which another man was concealed.

## Excess Luggage

The Argentine diplomats were asked to pay for excess luggage, but as they had not sufficient roubles, Senior Bazzan stayed behind with the other trunk and the rest of the luggage.

The report of Tass, the Soviet official news agency, published in Russian newspapers today, said that besides the man, the Soviet customs authorities at Lvov also found in the trunk a revolver with cartridges and two faked passports with faked Soviet and Czechoslovak visas.

Last week, the New York Herald-Tribune, quoting Washington diplomatic sources, reported that the attempt at smuggling involved two former Spanish Loyalists. — Reuter.

## KCC CRICKET TEAMS

The Kowloon Cricket Club is continuing the Hongkong Cricket Club in a two-day match during the weekend. Play begins on Saturday at 2 p.m. and on Sunday at 11 a.m.

The following will represent the KCC:— R. E. Lee (capt.), E. C. Fincher, C. I. Stapleton, J. Barrow, W. H. Colledge, F. R. Zimmern, A. Zimmern, N. Hart-Baker, S. A. F. White, G. E. Taylor and S. C. Tranter.

The KCC second team meets HKCC "A" on the Clutter Road ground on Saturday, the team being: V. Bond (capt.), R. G. Labrum, E. Randall, V. H. White, R. H. A. Lapsley, P. Smith, F. H. Rand, K. L. H. Jackson, J. Tibble and A. N. Other.

## OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, registered articles and parcels close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. Mail close before 10 a.m. on previous day.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Closing Times by Air  
Bangkok, Singapore, Batavia, Colombo, Sydney and Australia, 4 p.m.  
Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking, Reg. 3 p.m.  
Canton, Swatow, Amoy and Foochow, Reg. 3 p.m.  
Kobe, Reg. 3 p.m.  
Canton (Train) 2 p.m.  
Straits, Ceylon, East and South Africa, Aden, Egypt and Europe via London (Sea) 3.30 p.m.  
Manila, Honolulu, USA, Canada, Central and South America via San Francisco (No parcels for Canada) (Sea) 2.30 p.m.  
Shanghai (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Japan (Ordinary letters & cards only) (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin & Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Kobe (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.  
PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 23  
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.  
Shanghai, Reg. 8 a.m.  
Amoy, Reg. 8 a.m.  
Macao, Canton, Amoy, August & London, Reg. 3 p.m.  
Straits and Peking, Reg. 3 p.m.  
Santow, Reg. 3 p.m.  
Canton and Chungking, Reg. 3 p.m.  
Canton (Train) 2 p.m.  
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin & Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Kobe (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24  
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.  
Shanghai, Reg. 8 a.m.  
Manila, P.I., Honolulu, USA & Canada, Reg. 2.30 p.m.  
Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking, Reg. 3 p.m.

## ZBW BROADCAST

H.K.T.  
6 Studio: Rhythm Review presented by Philip Burn.  
Viewers: 7.15, London Relay: World and Home News: 7.15, B.B.C. Transcription Service.  
Handley: 7.45, B.B.C. Transcription Service: "The Masqueraders": 8, Music and Song from Foreign Lands: 8.30, B.B.C. Transcription Service: "Music in Miniature": 9, London Relay: News: 9.10, Weather Report: 9.11, Studio: Book Review: 9.15, London Relay: 9.20, B.B.C. Transcription Service: "The Grey Messenger" by Kenneth Dommett: 9.25, London Relay: "Radio Newsweek": 10.15, B.B.C. Transcription Service: Whom the Gods Love: 10.45, Tunes of Not-So-Long-Ago (For Dancing): 11, Close Down.

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Last week, the New York Herald-Tribune, quoting Washington diplomatic sources, reported that the attempt at smuggling involved two former Spanish Loyalists. — Reuter.

## Notorieties Sovereignty

The first of the six principles noted that Netherlands sovereignty would remain in Indonesia until transferred to a sovereign United States of Indonesia, in which the Republic would accept state status.

A Republican spokesman in Batavia today claimed the minutes of the Jogjakarta meeting meant that the existing status of the Republic was not compromised by the principle and would continue until something to the contrary was agreed upon by both parties.

The Good Offices Committee's "clarification" was given in a reply to a Republican question about the position of the Republic's existing political, economic, defence and foreign relations.

Some Dutch sources in Batavia thought today that negotiations might be reopened on the political principles. They said they were "confused and quite surprised" after reading the minutes of last week's Jogjakarta meeting, which led to the signing of the six principles in the Indies.

A Netherlands East Indies Government spokesman said the minutes of most formal meetings between the Indonesians and the Committee were given to the Dutch much earlier than had been done this time.

## Indonesian Acceptance

The minutes referred to the conceptions of the discussions about the principles, but in the opinion of the Dutch, they had no value in relation to their acceptance because the Republic had bound itself to them in a way which could only be considered as agreeing with the view of the Dutch delegation.

Dutch sources said Dr. Amir Sjarifuddin, the Indonesian Premier, in a letter of appreciation to the Dutch, had accepted the six principles without reservation.

Explanations are expected to be sought on Saturday, when the American and Australian members of the Security Council's committee Dr. Frank Graham and Mr. Justice R. C. Kirby, are expected in Batavia.

The Dutch Cabinet held a special meeting this morning, believed to be on the latest Indonesian development, Reuter reported from The Hague.

## INTENSE EARTH TREMOR

Buenos Aires, Jan. 21.—Telephone and telegraph communications were interrupted today by an earth tremor of "unusual intensity."

The tremor was felt over a wide area of Eastern Argentina.

In 1944, 2,000 people were killed when the city of San Juan was razed by an earthquake. — Reuter.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr and Mrs H. A. Castro announce the forthcoming marriage of their eldest daughter, Socorro, Maria, to Mr Charles Heno Rossetti, eldest son of Mr C. S. Rossetti, on 31st January, 1948, at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church. No invitations are being issued but all friends and relatives are invited to the ceremony. Reception at 6 p.m. at No. 24, Broom Road, Blue Pool Road, Happy Valley.

## NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the date of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy, etc. Notices and Classified Advertisements will be received up till 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

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